



Regional staffers have reported the following news:

## Region 1

**Northern Idaho Ground Squirrel (*Spermophilus brunneus brunneus*)** The Fish and Wildlife Service recently signed a Safe Harbor agreement with landowners Bob and Peggy Mack to enhance habitat on their property for the threatened northern Idaho ground squirrel. This agreement covers approximately 14 acres (5.6 hectares) near New Meadows, Idaho, and includes funding for the Macks through the Endangered Species Private Landowners Incentive Program. This Safe Harbor Agreement is the first for Region 1 of the Service.

**Oregon Columbian Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Tympanuchus phasianellus columbianus*)** On October 11, 2000, the Service and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife signed a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances to benefit the Columbian sharp-tailed grouse. The goal of this agreement is to restore the grouse to the point that listing under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) will not be necessary. It will be in effect for 20 years and cover approximately 160,000 acres (65,000 ha) in Wallowa County, Oregon. The agreement will support the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's efforts to reintroduce sharp-tailed grouse in Oregon, from which the bird was extirpated by the 1960s.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will seek participating private landowners, and will issue a certificate of inclusion authorizing incidental take of sharp-tailed grouse, in exchange

for the landowners enhancing grouse habitat on their property. Funding for landowners and implementation of Oregon's reintroduction program is available under the agreement through the Service's Endangered Species Landowner Incentive Program.

### **Columbia Spotted Frog (*Rana luteiventris*)**

Service staff met with representatives from the Idaho Department of Lands to discuss protection for Columbia spotted frogs on a grazing lease administered by the state. This frog population in Owyhee County has shown a significant decline for the past 3 years. An agreement was reached to fence portions of the large meadow complex on Idaho Department of Lands property. The Service will provide funding and volunteers for fencing, while the Idaho Department of Lands and the lessee will provide material and labor for a livestock watering system outside of the largest spring complex. In cooperation with other agencies, the Service will continue to monitor this site to evaluate the effectiveness of the fencing on spotted frog numbers, recruitment, and migration.

### **Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse (*Reithrodontomys raviventris*)**

A 6-acre (2.4-ha) tidal marsh restoration project was completed on January 19, 2001, at the Don Edwards San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The parcel, called Entry Triangle Marsh, is located at the main entrance to the refuge complex in Fremont, California.

Workers removed a road and excavated swales to allow tidal action on the parcel, and installed a tide gate to permit water control. Decadent



Photo © B. Moose Peterson

pickleweed (*Salicornia*) stands and invasive non-native grasses, effects of the lack of tidal action, supplied poor quality habitat for the salt marsh harvest mouse on the Entry Triangle Marsh. The project was primarily designed to improve habitat for this endangered species. Refuge staff will begin monitoring salt marsh harvest mouse recolonization this spring. The project was accomplished in partnership with Ducks Unlimited, our San Francisco Bay Coastal Estuary Program, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and Wildlife Forever.



Photo © B. Moose Peterson

### **Coachella Valley Fringed-toed Lizard (*Uma inornata*)**

For an entire week, the refuge manager and maintenance staff at Sonny Bono Salton Sea NWR operated an excavator and bulldozer to rehabilitate sand dune habitat on the refuge. The operation involved pulling tamarisk (*Tamarix* sp.), a non-native tree, from over 8 acres (3.2 ha) of the refuge where the trees' presence had prevented sand from freely moving with the wind, thereby threatening the habitat of the threatened Coachella Valley fringed-toed lizard, which resides on dunes in the refuge. Removing the trees and their stumps will restore the sand dune habitat needed by the lizard.

### **Tule Elk (*Cervus elaphus nannodes*)**

Tule elk were decimated by hunting during the California gold rush and the subsequent conversion of native habitat to agriculture. In the 1870s, the last survivors, estimated at two dozen, were protected near Buttonwillow by a private landowner. Now there are about 3,600 of these indigenous elk in their natural range in California. They are con-

sidered endangered by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, although they are not listed as endangered under federal or state law.

On January 30 and 31, 2001, 30 tule elk were captured at San Luis NWR and relocated to augment 3 of the other 21 herds in California. An interagency team of wildlife biologists, veterinarians, land managers, and volunteers captured, processed, and transported the elk to their new homes in Lake, Monterey, and San Luis Obispo counties. The California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) is in charge of elk management and oversaw the complex but effective and safe operation. A helicopter that routinely works with the CDFG was contracted by the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. Nets were used to catch the animals, which were hauled to a processing center to be measured and treated, then taken to their new home. The captive herd at San Luis NWR, which began with 18 animals in 1974, has contributed over 150 animals toward the establishment of other herds over the past quarter-century.

*Reported by LaRee Brosseau of the Service's Portland Regional Office.*

## Region 5

**Karner Blue Butterfly (*Lycaeides melissa samuelis*)** The Karner Blue Butterfly Recovery Plan gives recognition to the importance of the Concord Pine Barrens, the last outpost for the Karner blue in New England, and identifies the goal of reestablishing a viable population of this endangered insect at the site. To resolve conflicts between habitat conservation and development in the Concord Pine Barrens, the Service's New England Field Office, in cooperation with the New Hampshire Department of Fish and Game, Natural Heritage Inventory, Army National Guard, Federal Aviation Administration, and City of Concord, developed an agreement that sets aside nearly 400 acres (160 ha) of pine barren habitat at the Concord Airport for conservation purposes. The city also agreed to allow for active management of Karner blue butterflies and their habitat at the airport, (e.g., prescribed fire, access for monitor-

ing rare species, and butterfly reintroduction). The National Guard is planning to carry out a number of conservation measures, including butterfly monitoring, management, and recovery work at the airport for a 10-year period. The agreement will allow development to occur in low quality pine barrens at the airport.

**Plymouth Redbelly Turtle (*Pseudemys rubriventris bangsi*)** For the past 15 years, Massachusetts state naturalists have nurtured thousands of tiny Plymouth redbelly turtles through their first year of life in captivity, then released them into the wild under the state's "head start" program. The naturalists have searched unsuccessfully over the past 5 years for evidence that any of these head-started turtles were reproducing in the wild. Finally, in early June of 2000, a female head-started turtle was found heading back to her pond after just laying her eggs and burying them. This was the first known nesting of a released turtle since the head start program began. So far, the program has resulted in the release of 1,500 to 2,000 Plymouth redbelly turtles over the past 15 years.



**Plymouth redbelly turtle**  
Photo by T.E. Graham

## Washington, D.C., Office

**Grasslands Meeting** Grasslands stretch from Canada to Mexico, and many of the species that inhabit them are declining. Instead of each country tackling each species individually for conservation actions, the governments of Canada, Mexico, and the United States are working together on a continental ecosystem strategy. The Fish and Wildlife Service, the Canadian Wildlife Service, and Mexico's National Institute of Ecology met in Nuevo Casas Grandes, Chihuahua, Mexico in March under the auspices of the Commission for Environmental Cooperation to begin discussions on cooperative conservation strategies. The High Plains Partnership was represented by Region 2 of the Fish and Wildlife Service, and Region 6 was present to discuss with Mexican officials the proposed release of black-footed ferrets (*Mustela nigripes*) into Janos, Chihuahua, this fall. Also present from the three countries were representatives from universities, provinces, states, nongovernmental organizations, and a rancher. The group plans to design a strategy for a grassland initiative by this fall that will include stakeholder involvement.

*Reported by Susan Jewell of the Office of Partnerships and Outreach for the endangered species program in the Service's headquarters office.*



**Meeting participants at potential black-footed ferret release site near the town of Janos in the state of Chihuahua, Mexico.**

*Photo by Susan D. Jewell*

# BOX SCORE

Listings and Recovery Plans as of August 31, 2001

GROUP	ENDANGERED		THREATENED		TOTAL LISTINGS	U.S. SPECIES W/ PLANS**
	U.S.	FOREIGN	U.S.	FOREIGN		
 MAMMALS	63	251	9	17	340	50
 BIRDS	78	175	14	6	273	75
 REPTILES	14	64	22	15	115	30
 AMPHIBIANS	10	8	8	1	27	12
 FISHES	70	11	44	0	125	95
 SNAILS	20	1	11	0	32	27
 CLAMS	61	2	8	0	71	56
 CRUSTACEANS	18	0	3	0	21	12
 INSECTS	33	4	9	0	46	28
 ARACHNIDS	12	0	0	0	12	5
ANIMAL SUBTOTAL	379	516	128	39	1,062	390
 FLOWERING PLANTS	565	1	141	0	707	555
 CONIFERS	2	0	1	2	5	2
 FERNS AND OTHERS	26	0	2	0	28	28
PLANT SUBTOTAL	593	1	144	2	740	585
GRAND TOTAL	972	517	272	41	1,802*	975

**TOTAL U.S. ENDANGERED:** 972 (379 animals, 593 plants)

**TOTAL U.S. THREATENED:** 272 (128 animals, 144 plants)

**TOTAL U.S. LISTED:** 1,244 (507 animals\*\*\*, 737 plants)

\*Separate populations of a species listed both as Endangered and Threatened are tallied once, for the endangered population only. Those species are the argali, chimpanzee, leopard, Stellar sea lion, gray wolf, piping plover, roseate tern, green sea turtle, saltwater crocodile, and olive ridley sea turtle. For the

purposes of the Endangered Species Act, the term "species" can mean a species, subspecies, or distinct vertebrate population. Several entries also represent entire genera or even families.

\*\*There are 587 approved recovery plans. Some recovery plans cover more than one species, and a few species have separate plans covering different parts of their ranges. Recovery plans are drawn up only for listed species that occur in the United States.

\*\*\*Nine animal species have dual status in the U.S.

E N D A N G E R E D

Species

B U L L E T I N

*U.S. Department of the Interior  
Fish and Wildlife Service  
Washington, D.C. 20240*

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